

Alberta sets greenhouse gas emissions target

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Beginning July 1, Alberta will require industry to meet a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, which comes several years ahead of Ottawa's 2010 legislation on climate change.

But Alberta's environment minister said Monday businesses should not be worried about competing environmental policies from different levels of government.

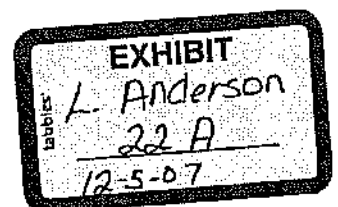
Large companies in Alberta emitting more than 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year will have to reduce their annual emissions intensity by 12 per cent. If they don't, they will have to pay \$15 per tonne above the 12 per cent target, which will go into a technology fund.

Emissions intensity refers to a measurement in relation to economic output, so a decrease may not refer to an absolute reduction if production expands.

Environment Minister Rob Renner said that despite the timing, his department continues to work with the federal government.

But speaking on CBC's Calgary Eyeopener on Monday morning, Renner said Alberta has a long track record of regulating its own environmental policies.

The Stelmach government feels strongly that it should be in control of its own environmental policies, Renner said. And he stressed that Alberta will work with and not for Ottawa.



Anderson Exhibit # 22a